

Dear Friends,

December 2011

**Mississippi Arts  
Commission  
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The word “heritage” takes on various meanings in today’s society. For some, the term heritage simply means family roots. For others, heritage means the traditions practiced in a community, be that fishing, canning, quilt making or tall-tale-telling. Others view heritage in the historical sense, recalling their connection to the Middle Passage, the Civil War, or Ellis Island, just to name a few.

You’ve likely heard the phrase, “heritage tourism,” in recent years as state and local tourism groups work to advertise Mississippi’s culture as a point of interest to potential visitors. I recently had a Yankee transplant tell me that she was very impressed with how well Mississippians know their local history and culture. In many ways, I like to think that the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) has had something to do with that.

Since 1990, the MAC has employed a program director to directly work with the continued traditions, the heritage, of our state. From the blues music of the Delta region to the wooden boat builders on the Gulf Coast, the MAC recognizes that Mississippi is home to a wealth of cultural and artistic traditions that demonstrate the deeply held values of our communities. The Mississippi Heritage Program works to increase the awareness and foster the continuation of these traditional forms through its grants and special projects. One grant program in particular has nurtured relationships between artists and helped perpetuate the practice of traditional and folk arts in our state. The MAC Apprenticeship Program allows master traditional artists to pass along their unique skills to promising novice artists who work in their art form. The master artist works with the apprentice on a one-on-one basis to teach specific aspects of the tradition. Some examples of artists who have received Apprenticeship grants in the past include blacksmiths, quilters, old-time fiddlers, traditional potters, basket makers, blues guitarists and foodways practitioners. The program focuses on sharing artistic expression through informal, oral and hands-on instruction, rather than through formal classes.

Formal classes, however, are not lost in the Mississippi Heritage program. We are particularly pleased to announce a special project that combines the MAC’s interest in the creative economy alongside our dedication to arts integrated classrooms. Through a Folk Arts Infrastructure grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the MAC is developing an 18-lesson curriculum guide for fourth grade students that explores Mississippi history through the lens of the Mississippi Blues Trail. The Blues Trail markers will serve as the source for arts-integrated lessons on the blues as a musical form, the meaning of the blues, the influence of cotton on the blues and the civil rights era and the blues. Blues Trail historian Scott Barretta and curriculum designer Dr. Mark Malone are spearheading this project alongside MAC’s heritage director, Mary Margaret Miller.

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## MAC Staff

Malcolm White  
Executive Director

Lee Powell  
Deputy Director

Susan Dobbs  
Public Relations  
Director

Teresa Haygood  
Executive Assistant

Jodie Engle  
Whole Schools  
Initiative Program  
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Sallye Killebrew  
Special Initiatives  
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Mary Margaret Miller  
Heritage Director

Larry Morrissey  
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Arts Education  
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Diane Williams  
Arts Industry Director

Allison Winstead  
Arts-Based  
Community  
Development Director

No matter how you define heritage, it is imperative that traditions be shared with the youth of our state. If we plan to utilize our culture as an economic engine for tourism, then we must ensure that the next generation understands their Mississippi roots. Take the young people in your life on a road trip around the Mississippi Blues Trail. Eat rib tips and tamales, and talk about the cross-cultural connections between Latino and African-American cultures in the foods we call our own. Connect the banjo player in your local pub with your niece who can't get enough Taylor Swift. Help the youth to better see that Mississippi is the mecca of cool, and you can't get any closer to the root of American music than your own backyard. And speaking of Mississippi music, the Arts Hour will air at 3 p.m. on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25. As our way of saying happy holidays, we will feature an hour-long music special, showcasing all Mississippi-made holiday music. We hope you'll tune in for this very special music edition of the Arts Hour, and remember that your friends at the MAC wish you and yours peace and joy, and a happy new year! My best,  
Malcolm

## MAC WORKSHOPS

### COMING TO A COMMUNITY NEAR YOU!

MAC will be hitting the road soon and visiting a community near you! Staff members will present an overview of the agency's grant programs and other services. Included will be an in-depth discussion on how to prepare an application for the agency's upcoming annual grant deadline of March 1, 2012. First-time applicants are especially encouraged to attend. The workshop dates, times and locations are as follows:

January 9 – 6:00pm at The Ellis Theatre in Cleveland

January 10 – 6:00pm at the Hancock County Library in Bay St. Louis

January 17 – 6:00pm at the Quisenberry Library in Clinton

The week of January 30 – February 3, webinar workshops will be held via spiderphone. For more information, contact Larry Morrissey, Director of Grants at [morissey@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:morrissey@arts.state.ms.us).



Did you attend the Mississippi Creative Economy Road Show?

If so, we want to hear from you. Please visit the link below to take a short survey. Thanks!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FLYRJ98>



The MAC is excited to see that Mississippi's music is featured on the state's new car license tag! What a tribute to our state's cultural heritage!

**Calendar of  
Events  
December**

**New Stage Theatre  
presents "Annie"**  
Through December 18  
New Stage Theatre,  
Jackson

**Christmas at the  
Governor's Mansion**  
Through December 20  
Governor's Mansion,  
Jackson

**Gifts from the  
Seasons Art Show**  
Through December 22  
10am-4pm  
The Cedars, Jackson

**Rick Anderson & Bill  
Bannister Art  
Exhibit**  
Through December 28  
Mississippi Library  
Commission, Jackson

**Greater Jackson  
Arts Council  
Christmas Tree  
Festival**  
Through December 31  
Arts Center of  
Mississippi, Jackson

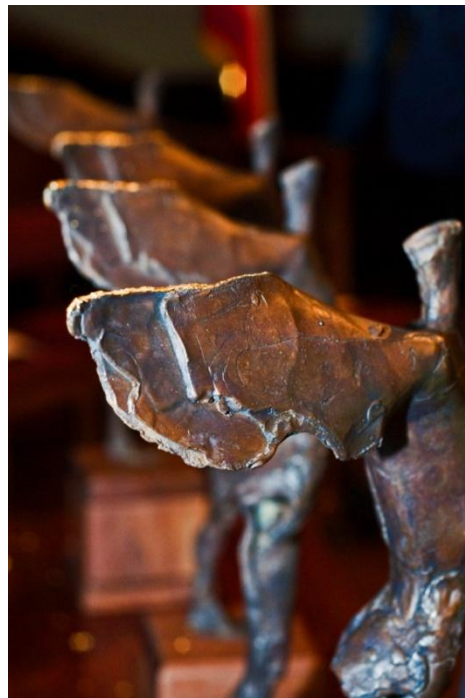
**Ballet Magnificat's  
Snow Queen**  
December 16-28  
Thalia Mara Hall,  
Jackson

**The Mississippi  
Chorus Presents  
Handel's Messiah**  
December 17, 2011  
7:30pm  
Wesley Chapel,  
Jackson

**Coast Big Band –  
The Christmas Show**  
December 20, 2011  
7:00pm  
Mary C. O'Keefe  
Cultural Center, Ocean  
Springs

# GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012 AT 1:00PM  
WELLS MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



The Mississippi Arts Commission is pleased to announce that the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts will be held at Wells Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson! As the founder of WellsFest, one of the 2012 recipients, it will be the perfect location for the celebration!

We are also delighted to confirm that last year's *Excellence in Music* recipient, Mac McAnally, will serve as emcee of the distinguished event. Mac has recently been honored with his 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive "Musician of the Year" by the Country Music Association.

Those to be honored on February 16<sup>th</sup> include:  
*Arts in Education* – Althea Jerome, Hattiesburg  
*Arts in Community* – WellsFest, Jackson  
*Excellence in Visual Art* – McCarty Pottery, Merigold  
*Excellence in Music* – Carl Jackson from Louisville  
*Excellence in Literature* – Howard Bahr, Jackson  
*Lifetime Achievement* – Mose Allison from Tippo

For detailed information on the 2012 recipients visit MAC's website at:  
<http://www.arts.state.ms.us/special-projects/2012Recipients.php>

Sponsorships are available to those interested in participating. Contact Susan Dobbs at [sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us) if you are interested.



## NEA CHALLENGE AMERICA GRANTS AWARDED TO TWO MISSISSIPPI ORGANIZATIONS

Congratulations to the Mississippi Festival Foundation, Inc. of Sardis, Mississippi and to the North Mississippi Hill Country Picnic, Inc. of Potts Camp, Mississippi for being awarded National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Grants! These grants offer support to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to the underserved.



# GRANT OPPORTUNITIES!



The Mississippi Arts Hour can be heard statewide on Sunday's at 3pm on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Think Radio. Find the station nearest you by visiting [mpbonline.org](http://mpbonline.org). The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

## Upcoming shows

December 18  
Malcolm White hosts with photographer, David Rae Morris, as guest.

December 25  
A Holiday show featuring some of the best festive music by Mississippi musicians

***Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.***

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

Kresge Foundation invites preliminary applications for Arts and Community Building and Artists' Skills and Resources Grant Opportunities. Preliminary applications for both funding areas will be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis through February 1, 2012:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.ihtml?id=360200016](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.ihtml?id=360200016)

The National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grant supports creative place-making initiatives. A partnership between a local government entity and a nonprofit cultural institution is required; additional partners are encouraged. Deadline is March 1, 2012:

<http://arts.gov/grants/apply/OurTown/index.html>

Are you a filmmaker ready to screen your work in front of new audiences? If so, apply to be a part of the 2012-2013 Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers. Find out more!

<http://www.southarts.org>

**REMINDER: The Mississippi Arts Commission grant application deadline is March 2, 2012**

**The Mississippi Humanities Council** is requesting nominations for the 2012 Public Humanities Achievement Awards. To find out more visit

[www.mshumanities.org](http://www.mshumanities.org)

## REMINDER TO ALL FESTIVAL AND EVENT COORDINATORS!

Be sure to attend *BACK STAGE PASS* on January 24-25, 2012 in Bay St. Louis, MS. Visit <http://www.arts.state.ms.us/news/BackStagePass.php> to find out how to register and to check out the event program.



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
FROM  
THE  
MISSISSIPPI  
ARTS  
COMMISSION!!!**